

Survey shows awareness

Nebraska youth realize seriousness of AIDS

By Laura Smith
Staff Reporter

Results of a survey about Nebraska adolescents' knowledge of AIDS show that kids know a lot about the disease, said Ian Newman, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor of health education.

The results were announced at an AIDS symposium at UNL June 22.

'Kids are quite knowledgeable about the transmission of AIDS...'
--Newman

"Kids are quite knowledgeable about the transmission of AIDS, but tend not to be involved in taking precautions," Newman said.

The survey was given to Nebraska youth in the eighth and tenth grades in spring 1988. Newman said the results will be published later this year.

Newman told an audience of 35 that several years ago the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta started conducting national surveys on ado-

lescents' knowledge of and attitudes toward health-related issues including nutrition, safety, violence, suicide and sexually transmitted diseases.

Originally, AIDS was not included in the survey.

He said he decided to take the national questions and look at them at the state level.

Newman said he thinks the Nebraska survey will correlate with the national findings.

"Nebraska is probably no different than the rest of the country," he said.

The results show that most of the teens know an AIDS victim can spread the disease. Most also said they knew abstaining from sex and using condoms can reduce the risk of contracting AIDS.

Other results showed that more girls than boys knew that a pregnant woman can spread AIDS to her baby and that very few of the students know where to get tested for the AIDS virus.

More than half of the students said they would go to school with someone with AIDS.

Newman said the survey also asked students if they thought at least half of their peers were having sexual

intercourse. Eighty-two percent of male tenth graders said yes.

Of the 47 percent of students who say they have had sexual intercourse, less than 20 percent say they talked with their partner about AIDS before engaging in sexual intercourse.

Seven percent of the students said they stopped having sex because of the threat of AIDS.

Three percent said they have shared needles to take drugs.

"This is a small but alarming number," Newman said.

Newman said 1700 students answered the survey.

Newman said the results show very little difference between answers given by rural students and answers given by urban students.

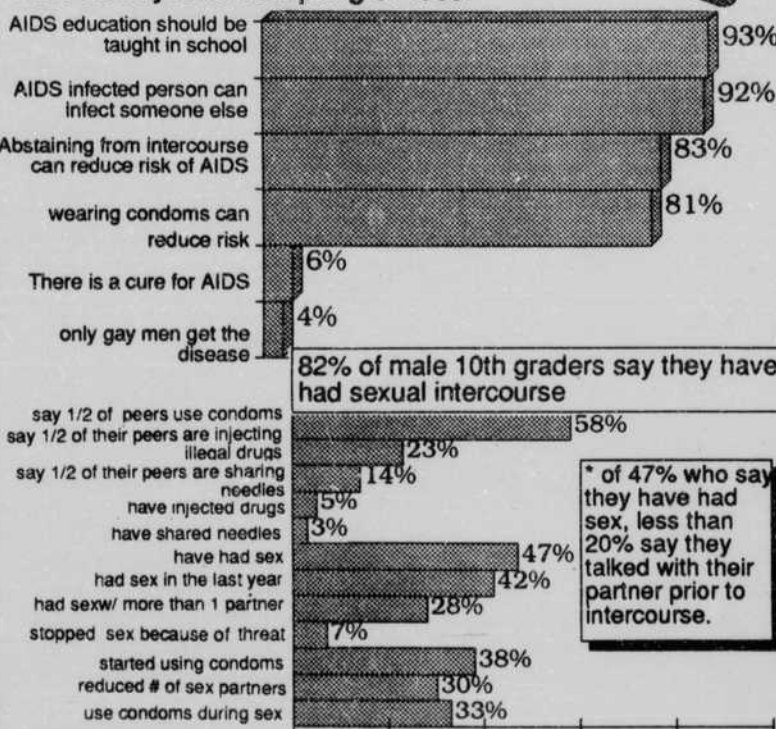
Some people are concerned that students don't give valid answers, Newman said. But, he said, validity has been tested and "in the main, kids tell the truth."

"Kids know the facts, but aren't acting on them," Newman said.

Newman's presentation was one of seven speeches about AIDS at the symposium "AIDS Education in Nebraska: Opening the Lines of Communication." It was sponsored by the Department of Educational Administration and the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Nebraska AIDS survey results

Eighth & tenth grades were surveyed in the spring of 1988.



Source: Dept. of Ed. Admin. & School of Health, Phys. Ed. and Recreation.

Resignations and appointments

Hartung resigns

From staff reports

T.E. Hartung has resigned as Dean of the Agriculture College and will be taking a full-time position as Associate Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Hartung came to the University of Nebraska in 1974 from Colorado State University where he worked with the research and extension programs.

He was selected for the position of Associate Vice Chancellor on July 1, 1988 and has been serving as Interim Dean for the College of Agriculture.

Donald Edwards will replace Hartung as dean. He is scheduled to take over Saturday.

Edwards was Chairman of the Agriculture Engineering Department

at Michigan State.

He also was part of the UNL staff from 1966 to 1980.

Regents appoint geography chair

From staff reports

Jeanne Kay has been appointed as chairperson of the Department of Geography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Kay has been an associate professor of geography at the University of Utah since 1984. She will be a full professor at UNL.

Kay is co-editor of "The Professional Geographer" and "The Environmental Effects of the North American Fur Trade."

Kay replaces Kenneth Dewey, who has been serving as interim dean.

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